

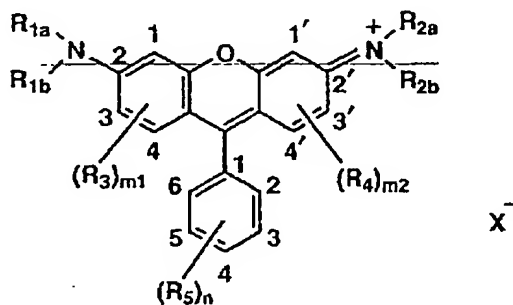
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
JUN 21 2006

## 1. (Currently Amended)

A toner for developing an electrostatic image, comprising ~~a toner particle~~ particles containing a binder resin and a colorant, wherein a Feret' s average horizontal diameter of the colorant is from 10 nm to 500 nm, a ratio of the colorant having the Feret' s horizontal diameter of from 2 nm to 300 nm is 50% by number or more, and the colorant contains a compound represented by a following General Formula (1) or a lake of the compound:

General Formula (1)



{wherein  $R_{1a}$ ,  $R_{1b}$ ,  $R_{2a}$  and  $R_{2b}$  each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms ~~and~~ or a fluoroalkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms ~~and~~ or a fluoroalkyl group having

from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, R5 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a fluoroalkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a sulfo group, an alkali earth metal salt or higher amine salt having a sulfo group, N-phenylaminosulfonyl group, a carboxyl group, an alkali earth metal salt or higher amine salt having a carboxyl group, N-phenylcarbamoyl group, an ureylene group, an iminodicarbonyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, -CONHR6 (wherein R6 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms or a phenyl group), -NHCOR7 (wherein R7 represents an alkyl group) or -SO2R8 (wherein R8 is an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms), m1 and m2 each represents an integer of 1 to 5, n represents a number of 1 to 5, and X<sup>-</sup> represents an anion.

2. (Currently Amended)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner ~~particle~~ is  
particles are produced by adding the colorant dispersed so  
as to have a weight average particle size of 2 nm to 300  
nm, to an aqueous dispersion medium.

3. (Currently Amended)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the toner ~~particle~~  
particles having a domain-matrix structure constructed by  
the binder resin and the colorant, wherein an average area  
of Voronoi polygons formed by a perpendicular bisecting  
line between centers of gravity of adjacent domains in the  
toner particle is from 20,000 nm<sup>2</sup> to 120,000 nm<sup>2</sup> and a  
variation coefficient of the area of the Voronoi polygons is  
25% or less.

4. (Currently Amended)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the toner ~~particle~~  
particles having a domain-matrix structure constructed by  
the binder resin and the colorant, wherein an average area  
of Voronoi polygons formed by a perpendicular bisecting  
line between centers of gravity of adjacent domains in the  
toner particle is from 40,000 nm<sup>2</sup> to 100,000 nm<sup>2</sup> and a

variation coefficient of the area of the Voronoi polygons is 20% or less.

5. (Original)

The toner of claim 4, wherein the Feret' s average horizontal diameter of the colorant is from 50 nm to 300 nm, a ratio of the colorant having the Feret' s horizontal diameter of from 2 nm to 300 nm is 60% by number or more and a variation coefficient of the Feret' s horizontal diameter of the colorant is 40% or less.

6. (Currently Amended)

The toner of claim 1 comprising the toner ~~partiele~~ particles having a domain-matrix structure constructed by the binder resin and the colorant, wherein an average area of Voronoi polygons formed by a perpendicular bisecting line between centers of gravity of adjacent domains in the toner particle is from 20, 000 nm<sup>2</sup> to 120, 000 nm<sup>2</sup> and a ratio of a domain forming a Voronoi polygon having an area of 160,000 nm<sup>2</sup> or more is from 3% by number to 20% by number in all the domains.

## 7. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein a ratio of toner particles having no corners in all of toner particles is 50% by number or more and a number variation coefficient in a number particle size distribution is 27% or less.

## 8. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein a ratio of toner particles having a shape coefficient of from 1.01 to 1.6 in all of toner particles is 65% by number or more, a variation coefficient of a shape coefficient is 16% or less and a number variation coefficient in a number particle size distribution is 27% or less.

## 9. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the Feret' s average horizontal diameter of the colorant is from 50 nm to 300 nm, a ratio of the colorant having the Feret' s horizontal diameter of from 2 nm to 300 nm is 60% by number or more and a variation coefficient of the Feret' s horizontal diameter of the colorant is 40% or less.

## 10. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein either of  $R_{1a}$  and  $R_{1b}$  is a hydrogen atom and the other is an ethyl group, and either of  $R_{2a}$  and  $R_{2b}$  is a hydrogen atom and the other is an ethyl group in the General Formula (1).

## 11. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are a methyl group in the General Formula (1).

## 12. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein  $R_3$  is a methyl group and  $R_4$  is a methyl group on a 3' -position.

## 13. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein content of the compound represented by General Formula (1) in the colorant is from 30% by mass to 100% by mass.

## 14. (Original)

The toner of claim 1, further comprising a crystalline material having a melting point of 50°C to 130°C.

## 15. (Original)

A method for producing the toner of claim 1, comprising: producing the binder resin by polymerizing polymerizable monomers in an aqueous medium.

## 16. (Original)

An image forming method comprising: visualizing an electrostatic latent image formed on a photoreceptor, with the toner of claim 1; transferring the visualized image onto a recording medium; and carrying out a heat fixation of the transferred image.

## 17. (Original)

The method of claim 16, wherein the heat fixation is performed by a fixing device having an endless belt-shaped film.

## 18. (Original)

The method of claim 17, wherein the electrostatic latent image is formed by a digital image exposure irradiation on a photoreceptor.

## 19. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 17, wherein the toner comprises the toner ~~particle~~ particles having a domain-matrix structure constructed by the binder resin and the colorant, wherein an average area of Voronoi polygons formed by a perpendicular bisecting line between centers of gravity of adjacent domains in the toner particle is from 20,000 nm<sup>2</sup> to 120,000 nm<sup>2</sup> and a variation coefficient of the area of the Voronoi polygons is 25% or less.

## 20. (Original)

The method of claim 19, wherein Feret' s average horizontal diameter of the colorant is from 50 nm to 300 nm, a ratio of the colorant having the Feret' s horizontal diameter of from 2 nm to 300 nm is 60% by number or more and a variation coefficient of the Feret' s horizontal diameter of the colorant is 40% or less.